

R. E. Speer

Wm R. Moody

MAY 25 1931

WILLIAM REVELL MOODY
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASS.

Ans. _____

May 23, 1931.



Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

It was very kind of you to write in such warm sympathy to May and myself. It has been a very trying month, but now I think we are fairly out of the woods. May came down first with an acute attack of pyelitis, which was just beginning to improve when a perfectly innocuous swelling on my foot became a rather serious infection. But now I am up and around, and May has just returned from Boston, where she had a good report from a consultant, and we both feel very grateful.

I am glad to know that you are taking up gardening, and I hope you will have eminent success in your horticultural ventures. It has been for the last few years somewhat of a hobby of mine in a small way.

Thank you very much for the generous offer to yield your place on the General Assembly. The impulse on your part is generous, but formed by lack of appreciation of my qualifications. As a matter of fact, if I should go as your representative it might greatly impair your reputation, so I must decline with very great thanks. As a matter of fact, I have seen from the side lines these General Assemblies on two occasions. I suppose it is no worse than any other ecclesiastical arena, for I was once at some Congregational powwow which, so far as I could see, was no better than the General Assembly.

Thanking you again for your inquiries,

Ever yours,

W. R. Moody

May 20, 1931



Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

I heard a few days ago that you and May had both been seriously ill this spring and I am writing for Emma and myself to express the hope that you are both well again and that you are having some good time in your garden.

Three weeks ago Emma and I went up to Lakeville to plant the flowers in our garden. The next week there were two or three frosts and a snow storm but the seeds are coming up and we hope this week to find them out of the ground and on their way to their mid-summer glory. Last year they filled the place with their beauty.

If you would like to go to the Presbyterian General Assembly next week I should be glad to yield my place to you. I would rather go fishing or dig in the ground or drive a truck. The pre-Assembly meetings begin in Pittsburgh this week but the Assembly itself does not convene until Thursday, May 28th. If you will undertake to go and do my chores for me I will gladly pay the hotel bill.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:E

Wm R. Moody

W. R. M.

ST. 14
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

205-M
Jan 3rd 1931

Dear Rob:

I am ashamed for not acknowledging your Times
article before, but during the holidays I was engrossed
with the children who were with us. Now I am again
attending to my correspondence which is in arrears.

I would reciprocate your kind wishes for the New Year.
We enjoyed the old days of intimate association and
the old tasks as much as you do but much of

What we used to converse about I fear is now banned
under present conditions. But the memory of old
days and intimacies will be cherished.

Very sincerely

Will R. Moody

Wm R. Moody
W. R. M.

200-M
ST. 14
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
Jan 3rd 1931

Dear Ruth:

I am ashamed for not acknowledging your Christmas
card before, but during the holidays I was engrossed
with the children who were with us. Now I am again
attending to my correspondence which is in arrears.

I would reciprocate your kind wishes for the New Year.
We enjoyed the old days of intimate association and
the old talks as much as you do but much of

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156 FIFTH AVENUE
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WILLIAM REVELL MOODY
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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SEP 2 1930
SECRETARIES

RECEIVED

AUG 26 1930

Mr. Speer

August 25, 1930

Dear Rob:

I very deeply appreciate what you say about the biography. It is encouraging to have one who has had such wide experience in biographical literature endorse the work, but what I appreciate even more is the trouble you have taken in noting the errors that have occurred. I have noted some and cannot understand how, with all the corrections that have been made, these have slipped by. Thank you gratefully.

I am just leaving for a week and Betty will have to sign this for me.

Ever yours affectionately,

Will R. Moody
W.R.M.

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205-11
AUG 25 1930
SECRETARIES

August 25, 1930

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield,
Mass.

My dear Will,

At Mr. Fitt's request I have written a review of your new biography of your father for the Record of Christian Work. I was delighted with the book. It is a worthy and a noble piece of work. I have expressed myself about it in the Review. In reading the book through carefully I came on a number of places where I think in any new edition you would wish to make verbal revision or to correct typographical errors. I did not take up time in the review to specify these but I enclose herewith a list of those which I noted, in case you should be revising the book at any time for another edition. I trust that it may have a large circulation.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:C.

FILING DEPT
AUG 22 1929
228
SECRETARIES

August 21, 1929
Dictated Aug. 19, 1929

Mr. William B. Moody
Desert Scraperfield, Wash.

My dear Will:

I saw notices in the papers from time to time regarding the August conference and trust that you have had a thorough, good and helpful time. You evidently had a good crowd of men together.

A letter from the big institution a few days ago spoke of the great help which they had received as an educational resort in the Sierrayas from the Rev. James Gray, I think, of the "College". You know he would be a good man for us to have at conferences in this country, don't you?

I have not been at so many of the summer conferences this year but I am expecting to get to some of them this week - Fortreat, Blue Hill, and Massanetta Springs. I like to go down among the Southern Churches. One can still talk so much for related things which it is not always possible to talk for oneself elsewhere.

I have been here all summer with the exception of a day or two and then at Lakeville. I spoke at the Fifth Avenue Church on Sunday during July. We had very good conversations come up, of course, for the most part of the school teachers who are here at the summer schools in the two universities. I hope to get away for four weeks the end of the month and then I will probably be motoring up for one week to Bay Harbor. Mrs. Schaffler, I believe, has not been very well but I trust she will be all right for one of the Desert lobster parties when we arrive.

One does not mind having been here this winter with the exception of one or two days the weather has been delightful and I trust that you and my are having a good summer.

With warm love to all, I am

Ever affectionately yours,

EES/a

W. R. Moody

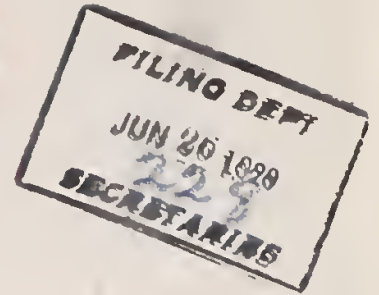
WILLIAM REVELL MOODY
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASS.

RECEIVED

JUN 15 1929

Mr. Speer

June 13, 1929.



Doctor Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Your letter of June 4th should have had an earlier acknowledgment, but I did not receive it until a day or two before the reunion, as I was away most of the week between the 2nd and 8th. I do not know that now there is much that can be said.

I am delighted to know that the Princeton situation has at last been cleared up. You quote from a statement made at the General Assembly, which was, of course, unfortunate, and of course untrue. The last Moody has not gone from Northfield, for A.G. remains here, although Elliott has told me that it is his intention to "squeeze A.G. out entirely." But I do not wish to dwell on ancient history. Wherever my lot is cast in the future, I shall always cherish with deepest gratitude the memory of the happy years of service here, and the privilege which has been mine in the trust which I received from my father. On my part there is no bitterness.

Ever yours affectionately,

Will R. Moody

WILSON
DEC 22 1929
SCHOOL

April 30, 1929

Northfield School

Mr. F. F. Hoar,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

I was very glad that we could have our talk together on Tuesday. I was sorry that you could not stay for luncheon. It was a great joy to be with you again and to be able to talk things over on the basis of our old and ever existing friendship. As I thought over our talk, however, I was not very satisfied; it was to you. I was trying to bring out to you everything from your point of view and to find the full measure of truth that was in all that you said. But I fear I did not fulfill a friend's part in trying to check your account at one point and another or in ensuring as fully as I could that I did not find myself or to that I tried to you must do so. I did try to answer to the part but as I recall our conversation if we could please it I think I should want to say we think more on this point.

I trust that every one will be ready to make it again soon. Will you not be coming back here again in the near future?

Yes, that is what I should like to talk a long time, however, could not say more than I tried to say at the first in urging you to view the whole matter in the most unprejudiced way and with honest recognition that you are your own judge of yourself and of his own account. I am really sure that your judgment is sound in your case, however, would it not still be your duty and your privilege to deal with the whole situation in the largest and bravest and most generous way, and would not this involve an attitude of trust and confidence toward the trustees; a genuine purpose to help Elliott and still more to help the School; a resolution to make the break, if you feel it so to speak, as unceremonious, if possible, and not so radical or polemical as to use all the influence you have to hold together the forces that have supported the School and to do this with the self-control and self-abnegation that will be always urged upon others.

If you feel that something is necessary in the way of outside help, would you not come over from Northfield for a few weeks, or plan to do so next fall and winter, meanwhile doing your full part in carrying the case through the conference and sharing certainly in the anniversary of the anniversary. Won't that be a good opportunity to mark the policy that you are going to pursue. Elliott told me that you had said you would not be present or take part except at the trustees' meeting. Will you not reconsider this and provide as Elliott has asked you to do and fill your own natural place as one who has done his part throughout the last and burden of the day and as one relieving himself, as far as possible, of the administration in order that a free spiritual influence may service in still other ways.

April 30, 1929

I do not need to tell you that one of the things that grieved me so it was your severe judgment of Elliott and your declaration of his impotence and lack of tact and conciliation. I think you are wrong in this matter and that the event will demonstrate it, and I think that every such wrong judgment we form about others always injures us more than it can injure them. And even if it were true, here again I think you have an opportunity for the largest revelation of the Christian spirit and a free and noble Christian mind.

As you know, when Elliott came to you the last time it was with the earnest hope that some happy and friendly basis might be established between you. I know that he meant to do everything in his power to find such a basis. I wonder if you tried adequately to help him and yourself and the schools and those Christian principles in which we have always believed and which we have pressed on others so earnestly across the last forty years.

I don't know that I am helping at all by this letter but it will carry you the assurance of all the old-time love undiminished, and it comes out of such prayer that God will give us all grace at this time to be greater men than we have been and to find and follow the true way of Christ.

With much love to May and yourself,

Your affectionate and devoted friend,

: /B

FILING DEPT.

JUN 15 1928

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SECRETARIES

June 12, 1928

Mr. W. R. Moody
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

I will be glad to come up some time this year for at least a day. I am not sure whether a week day or a Sunday would be best until Emma gets home and I can find out more about her plans and our consequent common summer plans. My thought has been that I would stay here in the office through the summer, going up to Lakeville for week ends during August and then taking September as my vacation. I don't know yet, however, how this will fit into Emma's plans.

What are the dates of the August Conference this year and for what day would you rather have me come?

I am glad to hear from Non and Elliott and others of what a satisfactory meeting of the Trustees you had on June 2nd. I wish I could have been there.

Emma and Constance are in Budapest now at the meeting of the World's Young Women's Christian Association Convention. They are expecting to sail for home on June 30th. I saw them last on April 20th in Sidon, Syria, where they were having a beautiful visit with Dr. and Mrs. Ford.

With a great deal of love to May,

Ever affectionately

RWS/B

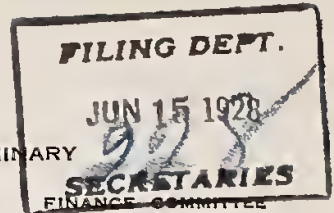
W. R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

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NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED 1879

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W. R. Moody
East Northfield, Massachusetts

June 8, 1928.

RECEIVED
JUN - 9 1928

Dr. Robert ^{*Mr. Green*} L. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

The Trustees have prevailed upon me to take up the August Conference again at the end of my year's leave of absence. I have had a talk with Elliott regarding the preparatory work which he has already put in, and those who have been engaged to speak. He tells me that you have definitely promised to come up for the Conference, and I cannot tell you with what genuine delight I have learned this. You know how I have tried through the years to induce you to come to us at some time in August. When you have time will you indicate what would be the best time for you to come, so that I may make any plans that I can?

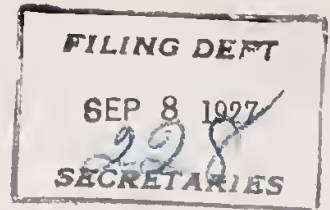
You know with what genuine affection I cherish the friendship of the years, and what it will mean to me to have you in our midst, and the privilege of laboring with you.

With lots of love, dear Rob,

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

WILLIAM REVELL MOODY
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



August 12, 1927

Dear Rob:

A man like yourself I had never thought would so misapply Scripture as to claim you were "just" in running away without seeing me. How about other Scriptures--"I have set before thee an open door"? You know the old saying that a tramp is a man who looks for work and when he finds it goes to another place.

Joking aside, I am disappointed not to have seen you and if you had only given me a telephone message I would have been strengthened to resist temptation against golf, for I should have liked to hear your address on lapserium,^{"(?)} whatever the beast may be. How we should have loved to have seen you and I was coveting for Hutton and Reid the pleasure of meeting you. But I will not get entirely discouraged and I will look for you again.

Affectionately yours,

Will

WRM BM

P.S. Betty who is helping me in the matter of dictation is, also, not a good Presbyterian and balks at theological terms of more than four syllables. Forgive her for a poor Congregational sister.

The Northfield Schools

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JAN 28 1927

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

January 13, 1927.

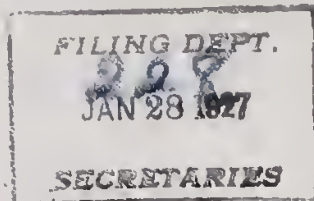
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
52 Grammercy Park, N.,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

I am taking the liberty of sending you some game. In fact, it is a rabbit. He has had a slight nervous affection which has affected one ear, otherwise he looks somewhat interesting. I wouldn't advise you to eat him at once, but put him on the mantle-piece, as game is much better when high. When I saw him in the south of France, for some unaccountable reason I felt that he would appeal to you; and while I was tempted first to send you a dog, it occurred to me that in a flat there might be difficulties in keeping such a pet, and I did not care to get into Emma's bad graces. I have only been waiting until you returned home until I could send this on to you.

Affectionately yours,

Will



January 27, 1927

Mr. William R. Moody,
West Weyfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

I meant to thank you yesterday for your good letters of January 12th and 13th and also for the rabbit. He lends a fine touch of color and makes a distinct spiritual contribution to 52 Gramercy Park.

It was fine to see you again at the Trustees meeting.

Affectionately yours,

RES/SCB

W R Moody
The Northfield Schools

(INCORPORATED)

MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1881

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED 1879

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228
JAN 28 1927
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East Northfield, Massachusetts

January 12, 1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

It is so good to hear from you. Of course I knew that you were back from what Elliott and Ned had told me, and I do hope that the benefit of the return voyage has not been entirely dissipated by your yielding to the temptation to write reports on your trip. I was asking Elliott yesterday what the prospect would be of our seeing you, and I do hope that ere long you can make a visit to Northfield, where I do not need to remind you an affectionate greeting always awaits.

We too are passing through the same experience that you are in an empty home. Mary is brushing up on her anesthesia work, in which she has had no practice for two years. Connie and Bill are making their plans to leave for Panama, where he has accepted a position with the Standard Fruit Co., and they sail on the 26th of the month. Peggy is back in college, and Betty is taking a secretarial course in Boston.

Elliott returned the first of the week from the West and is back with us. I do not need to reassure you of my warm personal regard for him. It is a very great regret to me that there has been so much delay in his getting settled in a home. It was unfortunate that steps were not taken earlier in the year in the event of a house being built; but now he has found it preferable to buy an old house in the village, which he thinks will appeal to Holly and himself in every way, although I regret that it is so far removed from the work, which he will find, I fear, a disadvantage.

May would join me in affectionate remembrances to Emma and yourself. Believe me, dear Rob,

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

I was right here as the Moody signed this.

lots of love to you and mother.

Elliott

FILING DEPT.

JUL 10 1926

455
SECRETARIES

The Rev. Elliott Speer,
East Northfield,
Mass.

RES:C.

July 9, 1926
Dictated 7th.

My dear Elliott,

I have given mother several letters which have come from Mr. Will Moody and Mr. Ambert Moody about your call to Northfield, and enclose herewith one which I found waiting for me when I got back from Northfield, from Mr. Dickerson. I think it would be well if you would get in touch with him some time and take advantage of his counsel and sympathy.

Billy got off to the Keewaydin camps yesterday morning. In the evening we had Mr. and Mrs. Francis L. Slade with us for dinner, and got full accounts of their visit with Marnie in Peking.

I hope you had a good visit in Easton with Holly and Caroline and found them both well.

Ever lovingly,

The Rev. Elliott Speer,
East Northfield,
Mass.

RES:C.

Wm R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

May 20, 1924.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

I quite approve of what you suggest, that we give up all work and definitely plan to see America first. Of course the danger is that we might not care to go to heaven if we saw all the beauties of America. This will be a fitting subject for discussion on our way to Huntingdon.

Now as to the dates, this is serious. Tell me which date will really best suit yourself. If you are going to murder all the Presbyterians in Pennsylvania and New Jersey as intimated, we may have to drive further than Huntingdon to avoid the posse. Now tell me definitely what date you recommend. We will fix the trustees' meeting to suit your convenience. We will induce them to come for October 4th and then we will get away on the 5th. Is that agreed?

Thank you also for the suggestion regarding Dwight Day. I have never known him very well. I wonder if he has not been such an important man in the position of responsibility which he has held that he might not care to take a position which would be in a sense an associate one. Have you ever thought to speak to Ned about it? In the meantime I will have a chance to talk it over with Ned. Thank you for the suggestion.

Those were great days in April. Strangely enough, we have had rain nearly ever since. I had a wonderful week in Baltimore, telling people what a wonderful place Northfield is. I talked The Northfield Schools to luncheon clubs and churches for a week. I hope it will do good.

Give our united love to Emma, and believe me,

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

William R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

FILING DEPT.

MAY 19 1924

MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1881

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GEORGE S. PALMER

East Northfield, Massachusetts

May 5, 1924.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Have you ever read a book on John Smith of Demerara by David Chamberlin of the London Missionary Society? It is the story of a London Missionary Society martyr of the last century. It might be a good book to review if you have not seen it.

I am going to begin now to agitate for October. You know last year you side-stepped the thing entirely by just this wretched way of procrastinating. Now what is the date we can depend on? The probabilities are that our trustees will be with us on Sunday, the 12th. In that case, can't you get away for the week prior and you come to us for that Sunday, the 12th, or we will push it a week earlier and have you with us on Sunday, the 5th, and go off on our trip on the 6th. Anyway, it has got to be a clear week and no conferences of any kind to interrupt the Huntingdon trip.

Thank you very much for calling my attention to Mr. Alfred Stokes. I very much doubt that the experience he has had would be of any value to him or to us in the position which I am considering. I think possibly you may know that it is more than simply a secretaryship. We want a man who will be my assistant, with a view to his developing into a position to succeed me. Merely a secretary would not do this, and I doubt whether a man who is a graduate of the Springfield institution and has had Y.M.C.A. training would ever really develop much. Quite between ourselves, Y.M.C.A. work seems to disqualify a man for work as much as it qualifies him. Now don't quote me, or I shall get into hot water.

What we are after is a young man who has sympathy with the principles for which Northfield has stood, and who has a little business experience, but more especially has business capacity. He should have not only what I have in that direction, but very much more, for the work will grow in the future and will require a much bigger man to carry it on.

The fact of the matter is, it is a rather roundabout recommendation. Dr. Dodd knows a Mr. O'Brien, who knows a Mr. Stokes, who, unfortunately, has had three experiences, once as a student in Springfield, second as Y.M.C.A. secretary, and third, as a worker in

Calvary Baptist Church, New York, under the esteemed Dr. Stratton, none of which I fear would be a very strong recommendation for efficient service here.

Just burn my letter after you have read these terrible statements.

Affectionately yours,

Will

MAY 2 1924

SECRET

April 30, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield,
Mass.

My dear Will,

I trust that you and May got back safely to Northfield and am sorry that you have not had as bright a day for the trip up as the glorious days that we have had together. I do not see how we could have had a happier time, and we must certainly plan now for the trip to Huntingdon in the fall. I will work out some suggestions as soon as possible and then if the days are convenient for you and May we must set ourselves to hold fast to them.

On coming back to the office I found the enclosed note from our Board's Medical Secretary, Dr. E. M. Dodd. I do not know whether you will want to follow this up or not, but I send it on to you.

With a great deal of gratitude to you and May for all the happiness that we owe to you,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:C.

COPY

FILING DEPT.

MAY 2 1924

SECRETARIES

April 22, 1924

Dear Mr. Speer,

Our very good friend Mr. Reuben O'Brien, Superintendent of the Manhattan Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, which does a large amount of work for us entirely free, is very much interested and in touch with missionary and religious matters. He has just telephoned me that he has heard that Mr. William Moody at Northfield is looking for a secretary, and has offered a suggestion which he thought might be passed on to you as perhaps the one here who is most in touch with the Moodys. I am simply transmitting his suggestion.

He recommends for consideration for the place a Mr. Alfred Stokes, who has had Y.M.C.A. experience, and has been Religious Work Director, as I understand it, at the Calvary Baptist Church. He is a graduate of the Y.M.C.A. Training School at Springfield, I understand. Mr. O'Brien speaks highly of him, and thinks he would just fit into the position for which they are looking for a man at Northfield.

Mr. O'Brien gave Mr. Stokes's telephone number --Cathedral 7640-- but not his address.

Sincerely,

(signed) E. M. Dodd.

FILING DEPT.

APR 23 1924

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SECRETARIES

April 21, 1924

Mr. W. R. Mosdy,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

Your note with reference to next Sunday at Notchkiss is just received. I have already written to Dr. Buehler and have a very cordial note from him, saying that it will be a great pleasure to them to have us all with them next Sunday.

I have been going over the maps a bit and think we would have a fine trip through northern New Jersey and southeastern New York just at this time when the spring life will be bursting forth. As perhaps you know, the Student Y.M.C.A. and the Student Y.W.C.A. and the Fellowship for Life Service and the Student Volunteer Movement have been planning for some time to have a conference to discuss their relationships and their meeting is to begin at the Delaware Water Gap on Thursday night. They want me to speak there at the opening meeting. I thought we might go over there on Thursday from Englewood by way of Tuxedo, which will be a very beautiful route, and spend the night at the Water Gap, and then go north along the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers either to Oneonta or Stamford or Mohawk for Friday night, as we shall desire, and then go east through the Catskills by Chatham and Copake to Lakeville.

Emma will be looking for you and May for dinner on Wednesday evening. I have to be in town that evening but shall get out some time late.

I enclose herewith two more book reviews and also a notice of an Indian book which I should be glad to review if it comes to you.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC

FILING DEPT.

APR 19 1924

223
SECRETARIES

April 10, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

I think with you that the spring has been so late that the roads of Northern New England will be pretty bad, especially if we should get off onto second-class roads.

What would you think of your coming down to spend Wednesday night, April 23rd, with us? Then we could start early Thursday morning and go to Scranton, via the Delaware Water Gap for Thursday night. From Scranton we could go up to Cooperstown and the upper reaches of the Susquohanna and spend Friday night either at Cooperstown or at some place like Stamford or Cadosia on the western side of the Catskills. Saturday we could cross the Catskills to Poughkeepsie and get on to Hotchkiss for Saturday night. All day Monday we could take for going around through Litchfield County in Connecticut. This would enable Emma to get back to New York on Tuesday, as she feels she must do, inasmuch as their International Y.W.C.A. Convention begins on Thursday.

Or, if it would be better, Emma and I could come up Wednesday night to Northfield and we could start from there, or we could meet you Thursday morning at Newburgh or Poughkeepsie or Chatham, if you thought it would be better to start from there. I have to be at a meeting here all day Wednesday, including Wednesday evening, and could not get away until a late train that night.

If you can think of some better plan and the roads are not bad in the north, I am always ready for anything in New Hampshire or Vermont or the Adirondacks.

We have only two weeks now before the 24th and as yet the spring has not come at all with us. There are some buds on the maple trees and that is all. Within the next fortnight, however, the change ought to come in Pennsylvania and southern New York. If you think this is too early to go, I think perhaps I could get off for May 13th to 16th, although I am not absolutely sure of this, and have not spoken to Emma about it, but I shall speak to her, and if you think this would be better, perhaps we could work it.

My office neglected to send you the note about the other Dartmouth College book with my letter but it was sent to you later.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC

Wm R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1891

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED 1876

FILING DEPT.

APR 11 1924

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W.R.M.
East Northfield, Massachusetts

April 8, 1924.

Dr. Speer
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Your good letter is at hand. Should we write to Lakeville to ask if they can put us up, or can you work that? As to details, we will, I think, have to defer a little. I should love to see Smuggler's Gap, but unless we have some pretty warm weather within the next two weeks I should be afraid that the road would be pretty bad. But I can wait till a little later and make inquiries. It would be a lovely drive up there. The question comes as to the best disposition of our time from Hotchkiss School till the night of the 29th. I am afraid two days would be a pretty short time to make Huntington and back, and yet I have longed to see your country there. How about Delaware Water Gap?

I note what you say about Fosdick. To me it is perfectly outrageous the attacks that are being made on him and the spirit in which they are made. Even if he is wrong, the way they are attacking him is to drive him further away. But I believe that at heart he is evangelical.

I note what you say about Miss Ilahibaksh, and I think I sense the difficulty.

I think your secretary failed to enclose the reference to Dartmouth College. Your closing paragraph is as follows: "I judge from the enclosed that Dartmouth College is desirous of purging itself from the reproach of being represented by Professor Josey. I will try and find out what I can about the book and we will send it to you. *sent 4/7/24*"

May unites in affectionate remembrances to Emma and yourself. Eagerly looking forward to seeing you;

Affectionately yours,

Will

P.S. Do send me a line, telling me exactly when you will be free Thursday. Would there be a possibility of our getting started on Wednesday night? Can you come to Northfield on Wednesday, or shall we meet you somewhere?

W.R.M.

FILING DEPT.

118107

225 ES

February 19, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

It was very good to get your letter of February 6th and your school report letter of the 18th. Emma and I have got our spring trip down in our engagement books and I trust that nothing may arise to interfere with it. We shall certainly not allow anything to do so, if we can prevent it.

Thank you very much for the many books which have come. I shall hope to send you some more reviews before long. I enclose herewith a review of MY MUSICAL LIFE which Emma was good enough to write. She has gone off for a fortnight with Mrs. Cushman to Nassau and hopes to be back about March 5th.

I am delighted to get further word of the help that Peggy got at Indianapolis. I confess that I am as much perplexed about Frank Buchman as you are.

I was talking with Elliott last evening about Pulling and he said he would write to you. He thinks very highly of Pulling and I gathered that he felt he was pretty strongly British and Anglican and was more or less committed to go on with his work at Groton, although he was not clear on this.

THE RED MAN IN THE UNITED STATES has not been among the books which have come for review but I have a pretty good stock on hand now without it.

I enclose a notice of the Joseph Cook Lectureship and Dr. McAfee's appointment to it which you may be interested in noting in the RECORD OF CHRISTIAN WORK.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC

W. R. Moody
The Northfield Schools

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FEB 20 1924

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GEORGE S. PALMER

East Northfield, Massachusetts

-EB-4 924

February 8, 1924.

Dr. Speer
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

You ought never to have answered that letter which I sent out. I never expected to burden friends with these rather impulsive letters from me.

What really delights my soul is to have you come down to something like definiteness about that trip in April. Yes sir, we will take April 24th to 29th, and hold it with a determination that no one shall dislodge. We can easily include Hotchkiss in our itinerary, and pull up wherever Emma wants to be on April 30th. Now don't begin making compromises, and allow those wretched Y.M.C.A. and Presbyterian promoters and "rabble rousers", as old Kirk calls them, to deflect you from this itinerary. Mind you, it is the law of the Medes and Persians which holds you to it, and we will count this now a definite engagement, upon which there is no going back. You do not say where we will meet. What is your engagement for the 23rd, and where can we pick you up?

I hope you got the books about which you wrote.

I want to tell you about Indianapolis. Peggy really did have a wonderful experience, and we can never be grateful enough that she went there. Strange, however, that the help she received was from a source which I have been somewhat perplexed about, namely, Frank Bookman. I want to have a good talk with you about the man and his work. On the one hand, he seems to help some people, and yet I hear very conflicting reports regarding him and his methods.

I think you are a fraud in regard to your age. You told me once it was fifty years that was the limit in regard to Northfield, and now you have put it on to seventy-five years. You are a trifler, and I doubt if the Lord spares you to seventy-five years if you act this way. I know, you are always thinking you will go to the ends of the earth. If it is not Scotland, it may be the Pacific Coast, Siam, South America, or the North Pole. But we won't quarrel in correspondence, first, because I have got too many letters to write, and we must have something to discuss when I see you.

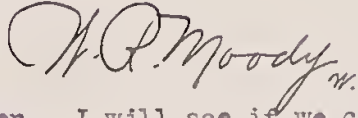
Thank you for your indorsement of Pulling. I am going to

try to see him.

Did you get the book about which you wrote, "The Red Man in the United States"? I hope it reached you with the other books for review.

Forgive this hurried rambling letter. You know only too well the penalty of an absence in accumulated correspondence, and the feeling of hopelessness with which one tackles it.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W.P. Moody". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "W.P. Moody".

P.S. Thank you for the voucher. I will see if we can collect on it.

W.R.M.

MR. MOODY HAS OBLIGED TO LEAVE
LETTER,
RECEIVED AT 11:30

FILING DEPT.

JAN 14 1924

SECRET 225

January 10th, 1924

Dictated 8th?

Mr. W. L. Moody,
East Northfield,
Mass.

My dear Will,

Your notes of December 24th, 27th and 31st have all been received.

I wish I might have had a sight of you also during the Holidays. Failing that it was very good to get a glimpse of Peggy. I trust that she greatly enjoyed and profited by the Convention in Cleveland. *Indianapolis?*

I return herewith Mrs. Durfee's note. She is finding it very hard to adjust herself to the new life with Mr. Durfee gone. He was just the thoroughly good kind and would have been a tremendous help on the Northfield Trustees if he had lived and we had needed another man.

I return also Henry Van Dusen's letter with regard to Edward Pulling. We know Pulling very well, and I asked Emma and Margaret what they thought of the suggestion of his name, and they both cordially approved. He is a strong, energetic forceful, pleasant personality. I think he is an Episcopalian, but I do not believe he is of the kind that would find any difficulty in working heartily into the Northfield clientele. My impression in reply to your inquiry would be very favorable indeed, but I would suggest your getting Elliott's judgment and Sam Shoemaker's, and also consulting Dr. Peabody at Groton. If I were you I would certainly follow up Van Dusen's suggestion.

I was delighted to learn from your letter of December 22nd that you had decided not to discontinue the August Conference. But, now, as to my coming there didn't we agree that I was not to come until I was 75 years of age? I am not clear

Mr. W. L. Moody, p. 2

on this point and even if there were such an agreement it would of course be open to revision on, say, 12 months' notice! The truth is, however, that all this summer's plans are still indefinite. The Barbers want us to come to Scotland, and that is what Emma would most like to do. But I may have to go to the Pacific Coast and, of course, there is the possibility that instead of either we might land again at Diamond Pond, which is always satisfactory to William and me. If we go there, I shall be going up probably the first week in August, and may be I could stop off and tell that Conference why and in what sense every Christian should be at the same time a rationalist, and a reactionary, and fundamentalist and a modernist!

As to our spring expedition, my understanding is that we were going to try to hold the week ending or beginning April 27th; that is the Sunday I have to be at Potchkiss and, as far as I can now see, the days before or after would be free. The only difficulty now is that we have nobody at home with us but William, and we hesitate to go away and leave him alone. Our ease of mind in the matter and our freedom to go would depend on our having somebody here with him.

If the volume described in the enclosed statement come to the Record for review, William and I would be glad to undertake it.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:C.

W A Moody

The Northfield Schools

(INCORPORATED)

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NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
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East Northfield, Massachusetts
December 24, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

Englewood,

New Jersey.

Dear Rob:

Here is a letter which I have received from Van Dusen in which he recommends a man by the name of Pulling as qualified for a position in my office here at Northfield. As Van Dusen says that you are acquainted with him, I should very much appreciate anything you might write me about him.

This will be too late for a "Merry Christmas", but in time for a "Happy New Year", I trust.

Affectionately yours,

Will

WRM:EBL

W. R. Moody.

The Northfield Schools

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AUG 11 1924

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

July 12, 1924.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Your letter dictated on the 6th came duly to hand, and I am sorry to hear that the autumn engagements seem to be so conflicting. I do not know very much about the value of the work of all these committees and directorates, but I do know the importance of keeping yourself fit. So many of the committees I attend really consider matters that ought to be decided by executive officers. And would it be a serious blow to the Kingdom of God if you were not present for once at a committee of Reference and Counsel, the Missionary Review directors, the Committee of the Federal Council and the Seminary directors? That is my question. I have no question as to what a blow it would be to the Kingdom for you to break down. But I will try to keep the time open so that on your return we may make definite plans.

I am jealous of anything that interferes with the rich privilege of fellowship those days afford, and of course it is a rare opportunity for us jointly to consider world problems like the League of Nations, and all things in heaven above and the earth beneath. You see what a mess your Democratic friends got into by your leaving New York. If you had only stayed on hand things might have been better, although I must frankly confess as a black Republican that the ultimate issue of the convention gives me some concern. I would have had no anxiety if McAdoo or Al Smith had been nominated, but with Davis opposed to Calvin Coolidge we Republicans have got a stiff proposition.

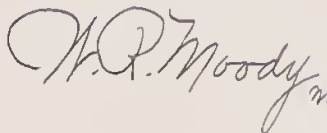
Emma from time to time tries to bring about my conversion to the League of Nations, but the more I view Europe from afar, the more I am convinced in my own feeling that the greatest influence which the United States can achieve will be by maintaining a position of absolute independence, rather than putting ourselves in a situation where everything will have to be by compromise. When any great moral issue arises now we can throw in our full weight of influence upon whichever side we feel is in the right, whereas if bound hand and foot by obligations to a league it seems to me we would be always having to study compromise. I wonder sometimes whether England, if she had remained outside the League, might not have joined with

America and driven Turkey from Europe, and yet being in partnership with France she was embarrassed in carrying out any such program. Frankly, I am increasingly conscious of misgivings in a contract between nations that do not enjoy common standards and share common ideals.

The Woman's Home Missionary Conference now in session is larger than any we have had heretofore, and Norwood of the City Temple is making a splendid impression. July is a busy month with me, and I have not heard him but once, and that was when he gave a lecture on Australia. Most entertaining, but dealing largely with the physical side of things, rather than the political or sociological. He has a keen sense of humor, and many of the dear old ladies had a splendid time. Perhaps I am too fastidious, but with only a week at their disposal I wondered at their being willing to give a whole evening to even so entertaining a lecture when they are here for serious work, although I must add that they have been working afternoons as well as mornings during the week. The leaders are charming people, but the advanced age of many in attendance makes me feel that the Young Women's Conference represents greater potential strength.

Please destroy this letter. I have said so much that would get me into trouble if anyone ran across it.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. P. Moody". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

MIR. MOODY WAS OBLIGED TO LEAVE
BEFORE SIGNING THE ABOVE LETTER,
DICTATED BY HIM.-STENO.

William R Moody

The Northfield Schools

(INCORPORATED)

MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1881

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED 1879

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GEORGE S. PALMER

RECEIVED
AUG 14 1924
Mr. Speer

East Northfield, Massachusetts

August 12, 1924

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rob:

I am so glad to get your good letter and know that you are safely home. We have thought of you much during the past six weeks and realize what a strain you have been under.

Would you come up and spend Sunday and Saturday as well and speak for us on Saturday night or Sunday noon? We will adjust hours to meet your convenience and shall love to welcome you and you have not been to the August Conference for thirty-seven years. The family are away, I know you are lonely and if you want to come up and not do anything you could get a room over Sunday and we would love to have you. Do not say no if you can possibly make it.

I had one of Emma's good letters, she is still seeking my conversion I do not think I will yield, it would be a pity to yield and then have her loose entire interest in me. I am interested in what you write about Mr. Torrey.

I think we will have to fix the Trustees' meeting for October 4th as that is the date that fits the convenience of the largest number, I therefore assume that you will come to us for Sunday the 5th speaking for us on that date and then we can go on our trip.

Very affectionately yours,

WFM: AK

Will

W. R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

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278
SEP 16 1924
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S

RECEIVED

AUG 27 1924

East Northfield, Massachusetts
August 25, 1924.

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rob:

It's good to hear from you, and to know that we may count upon your being with us October fourth.

We had better plan on those days right after your Sunday here for I think we can work it in some way, although Mrs. Jowett wrote that she expected to be with us the last of September. I shall hope to see you before then as I would like to have a talk with you the next time I am in New York.

We have had a great summer here. J. D. Jones' addresses at Northfield this season have been, in my mind, some of the greatest we have ever heard here. He stated profound truths with clarity and simplicity.

I wish the League of Nations would do exactly the same way in putting forth their views. I haven't had time to read the statement by Professor Hudson which you enclosed. The trouble is that it covers five pages. That seems to be the great difficulty with all these movements. They do not seem to realize that time is valuable, to say nothing of the paper and press work. But there, I'm tired out after the conference and feel as if I don't want to see another audience for months, and I suppose I am grouchy. Incidentally I may say that Connie has left us for her work again in the Roosevelt Hospital and that rather pulls at the heart strings for we can't have her with us again for a year. Of course we would not like to have her among the unemployed, but I find it hard to let our children slip out of our hands.

Affectionately yours,

W. R. Moody

MR. MOODY WAS OBLIGED TO LEAVE
SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE ABOVE LETTER,
AND THEREFORE DID NOT SIGN.

WRM:EBL

FILING DEPT.

OCT 7 1924

228
SECRETARIES

Dictated 9/23/24

September 24, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

Thank you very much indeed for your kindness in sending the entertaining catalogue by James Thin. Those are great tales which it contains and the quotations from parish registers. I was greatly pleased also with the account of the fire-proof woman who put melted lead in her mouth and spat it out marked with her teeth, and also with the account of the grinning matches.

Emma and I went up to the Case's at Norfolk last week to leave William at Fitchkiss and I drove Emma up and back in the Buick without any mishap. Will it be all right to bring her up to Northfield for October 4th and 5th?

With regard to our trip the last week in October, friends in Huntingdon are delighted at the prospect. How would it do for you and May to come down to Englewood on Saturday, the 25th, spend Sunday with us, and then we could start off on Monday. I think we shall need the whole week for Pennsylvania and to get back so that I shall be within striking distance of Wellesley for Sunday, November 2nd.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC

Wm R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

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278
OCT 4 1924
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GEORGE S. PALMER

S

East Northfield, Massachusetts

September 26, 1924.

RECEIVED

SEP 27 1924

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

We are delighted at the prospect of Emma's accompanying you for the trustees' meeting, and note that you will both drive up on the 3rd. Please come directly to our house.

You kindly consented to speak Saturday night, and I am arranging to have the faculties of both schools and the seniors of Mount Hermon, as well as all the students of the Seminary, attend the lecture in the Auditorium. We are making general announcement of it. Your exceptional vantage point will give you, I know, an outlook that few people are privileged to enjoy, and even though you are a Democrat and a League of Nations man, here in the heart of Republican Massachusetts you will find that you can speak with the utmost freedom, even to advocating the world court or our participation in the League of Nations. In other words, you are to speak unhampered and freely whatever you think America's duty is at the present moment in the chaos of international affairs.

We are looking forward eagerly to our trip, and I think that May and myself will come down, as you suggest, and spend Sunday with you on the 25th, in order to make an early start on the morning of the 27th for our wanderings, delivering you f.o.b. Wellesley in time for your Sunday appointment.

Affectionately yours,

Will

William R. Moody
The Northfield Schools
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NOV 14 1924

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

October 23, 1924.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Did you ever get Mark Twain's Autobiography? I wrote to Harpers and asked them to send it, but have never heard whether it came. Just drop me a postal.

I have just had a long four-page report from our good friend, Campbell White. Have you seen it? A conference which he himself has convened, covering two or three days, to try and launch another laymen's movement, apparently. If only these professional agitators would stop "convening and conferring", and get down to doing just the routine work that is appointed, it would be a big thing. In one of Montaigne's essays he has a phrase that appealed to me very strongly. I am afraid I cannot remember it correctly, but it was to the effect that "virtue exercises itself, not in flying high, but in walking orderly. It exercises itself, not in great things, but in mediocrity."

White, with his background and physical strength, if he would keep at his job it seems to me would do a lot, but for my part I am a little bit fed up with spending so much time "convening and conferring" on setting the world right, when it is doing our steady job that really counts for most.

Now I feel better because I have spouted to you, but I had to read through all these high-sounding paragraphs, because he had asked me to advise him as to appointing eight commissions! Don't you thank the Lord that He never appointed commissions on earth, but was satisfied with twelve humble fishermen, who went back to fishing after the Resurrection? "Let's go fishing!"

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

William Moody
The Northfield Schools
(INCORPORATED)

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Wm
East Northfield, Massachusetts

November 4, 1924.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Have you found among the books awaiting you on your return Mark Twain's Autobiography?

I have an awful lot of work which has accumulated as usual in my absence, but it was great fun. We shall long remember it.

Ever yours,

Will

P.S. We are nervous in the terrible suspense. Supposing the Democratic nominee La Follette is elected won't it be awful!

We are living over again in memory the happy hours of last week

Will

WILLIAM REVELL MOODY

William R. Moody

DEPT.
NOV 11 1924
727
SECRETARIES
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

RECEIVED

NOV 11 1924

Dear Rob: ~~Spier~~

Nov. 10 / 1924

All the week I've been thinking of where we were "a week ago today" and living over again the happy scenes. Now I shall think of western Penn. as the district in wh. is located Cum Stump, Coaseyville and Bear Meadows and Seven Mountains. What days they were.

We had a little trouble with our brake coming home. It was only a

matter of a little tightening up. Otherwise
our trip was a suitable "P.S." to our
Pennsylvania venture.

How often I've felt for the poor
fellow whose expansive forehead and
broad shoulders have been unavailing
for his constituents. They will never
know what they've missed!

Dear Rob. you don't know how
much this holiday has meant to
us and we can never adequately
thank Emma and yourself for taking
us along.

Did you ever get Mark Swain?
Affectionately
Will

W. R. Moody
The Northfield Schools

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

November 21, 1924.

RECEIVED
NOV 24 1924
R. E. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

As you know, for some time we have been trying to get someone here at Northfield to assist me. Both Ned and Stephen have been very urgent about this, and I am increasingly conscious that someone should be here familiarizing himself with the work in its various departments, who could very greatly free me from the details of the work, and leave me free to give more attention to some of the larger interests of the work; and at the same time, if he was the right man, be preparing himself to "carry on" if anything should happen to me. At one time I hoped that Van Dusen might be influenced to take this up, but he seems to feel that the regular ministry is what he wants to go into.

Now the question arises whether Ray Purdy, who has been strongly recommended to me, has the necessary qualifications. I knew that you would know something of him, and furthermore, that you could make inquiries without his knowing in what connection you were making them. We should want a man who was in sympathy with the evangelical position of Northfield. That being assured, the next thing would be to find someone who had the necessary executive ability. Can you help us in any way?

Affectionately yours,

Will

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NOV 29 1924

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SECRETARIES

Dictated 11/18/24

November 21, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

It was a great pleasure to get your note of November 13th with the accompanying disciplinary letter which you had received. This is about the last letter of this kind that you will get. Before long I think you will begin to get them also with regard to your most unsound views on political and international questions. But that is always the way these things go. Dr. Sailer was telling me this morning of the theory that orthodoxy and heterodoxy were consistent principles and that if a man was a heretic in one thing, he was likely to be in everything. I told him I thought a strong case could be made out for the contrary position because of what Emerson used to call the principle of compensation, that if a man was a radical in one thing, he was likely to be a conservative in another. My advice to you would be to be sound either in your theology or in your politics.

I was very sorry to miss you the other day when you called with your timely condolence over the misfortune at Princeton. I trust that you may feel the same exultation of spirit next Saturday evening.

With a great deal of love to May and yourself,

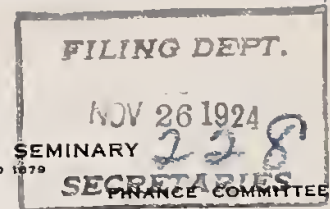
Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC

Wm R Moody
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East Northfield, Massachusetts

RECEIVED

NOV 25 1924

November 24, 1924.

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Your good letter of November 21st just at hand. I know that your biographer will be delighted to have our correspondence. It is so profound, and reveals the depths in our characters.

I am not surprised that you disagree with Sailer. In fact, I wonder if there is anything in which you do agree with him. The difficulty is that you are both right, but I cannot tell exactly to what extent.

It would have done you good to see 85,000 people last Saturday sitting in the Bowl at Yale. You would sometimes have wondered that there are so many fools in the world, and yet I was among them, and should do the same thing over again for a similar thrill.

I hope sometime to see you in your office, but apparently you have learned the art of being invisible when I am around.

Ever yours affectionately,

Wm

FILING DEPT.

NOV 26 1924

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SECRETARIES

November 25th, 1924

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield,
Mass.

My dear Will,

Your good letters of November 21st and 24th have been received.

I know Ray Purdy fairly well and have a very high regard for him. Charley McAlpin wrote me recently that he thought Purdy was the best young fellow who had come on the horizon within his memory. He is doing admirably in the work in Princeton. Not long ago I wrote to Ross Stevenson suggesting his name as a possibility for the Secretarial staff of our own Board. As far as my knowledgo goes he would be an ideal man for your purpose, and I would suggest your writing to Ross Stevenson telling him what you have in mind. Perhaps it would be well if the next time you are here you could come down to Princeton and see Ross and Purdy himself.

I should think that Erdman Harris also would be a man well worth your thought. He has very unusual abilities and I believe is going to develop into a most useful and influential man.

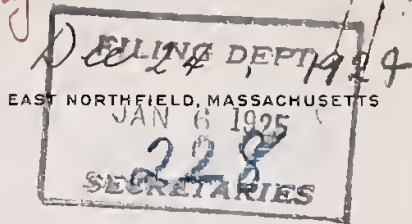
I am dreadfully sorry to have missed you when you were here but, indeed, I am nothing but a vagabond these days. I just got back this morning from a Missionary Campaign in Pittsburgh, and I have got to go off to speak even Thanksgiving evening in Baltimore.

I commend to your good sense the enclosed editorial from this morning's New York Times. How can you expect this new generation to behave reasonably when steady old fellows like you go out and sit in the rain all afternoon and watch a gladiatorial contest in the mud!

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:C.

William Moody
W. R. M.



Dear Rob:

This is just to wish Emma and
yourself a genuinely joyous Christmas.
Life is made richer for your friendship
which I count as one of the richest privi-
leges granted to me.

Am enjoying old Alexander Whyte's
life. A little long-drawn out but full
of good material.

Have you read Stewart's life of
R. E. Stevenson interesting but sadden-
ing in its disillusionments. R. E. S. was
a T. K. & S. & S. himself
Affectionately Will [unclear]

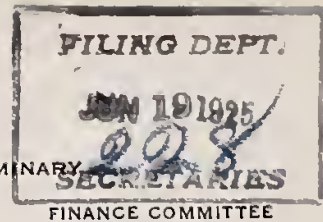
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East Northfield, Massachusetts

RECEIVED

June 12, 1925.

JUN 13 1925

Mr. Speer:

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

Among the candidates recommended for our consideration for the Principalship is Dr. Linn Harold Harris, President of Beaver College, Beaver, Pa. He seems to have been a brilliant student, but the data so far available says nothing about his religious sympathies. Knowing that you are familiar with that part of the country I thought possibly you could get some information for us.

It was so good to have you here. I only hope that you have not been worn out by the combination of three addresses, the trustees' meeting, and Brother Rankin.

Affectionately yours,

Will

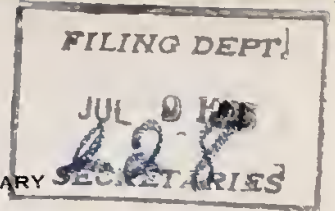
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JUN 29 1925

Mr. Speer
East Northfield, Massachusetts

June 29, 1925.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

I have not heard anything yet about that third week in September, when we were going to call Stephen's bluff. Have you looked up that little notebook, which I imagine has "plenary inspiration"?

It is great to have the girls here with us, and while we do not see much of them, we are glad to feel at least that the Speer family is so well represented in our midst.

Affectionately yours,

Will

R.S. Elliott & Stolly are in great form. How we wish we had the grandparents to make up our Speer contingent.

W. R. Moody

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

RECEIVED

MAY 28 1925

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

May 27, 1925.

Dear Rob:

Your letter of May 21st from Columbus, Ohio, has just reached us. I was away all day yesterday, and that must be my excuse for delay.

Yes, we are definitely expecting you for Sunday, June 7th, and Monday morning, June 8th, when we understand you will give the Commencement address to the girls. I am writing this letter both to the Hotel at Columbus and a copy to your office in New York to make sure of reaching you. If it is imperative that you should be in New York for Monday evening, we can arrange to have you driven to Greenfield to catch the 12.44 train, daylight. This will get you into New York a few minutes after seven. Is that all right? Give us as much time as you can, but we want to comply as fully as possible with your arrangements. So much for business.

I am writing this morning to Charlie Erdman, telling him how delighted we are that he has been made Moderator. It is a vindication of his conservative position, as well as his Christian character. It is a most hopeful indication in your body, and I shall at times regret not being a Presbyterian, until the season of your next General Assembly, when I always thank the Lord that I am not a Presbyterian. But before that time I hope we can get a motor ride and discuss things generally under the sun, which I do not think are really all vanity, but there are some things that are genuine, among which I should venture to say was our friendship.

Although it is possible your confidence in me may have been shaken from the letter which Rankin has sent you. He tells me that he has written you quite at length, warning you against my black character, and I hope you will be on your guard! Poor old chap! Forty-five or fifty years ago he had an illness, and has been incapacitated for all work ever since. The strange thing about it is, however, that a man who is so incapacitated for any constructive job can write four letters of thirty-two pages to Ned Bulkley, yourself, Lewis Crossett and Wilfred Fry. But if you continue to call me your friend I will try to live down the terrible name I have got. I long to see you and hear about the trip South.

Believe me, dear Rob,

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

W.R. Moody

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MS

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1925

Mr. Speer

East Northfield, Massachusetts

December 11, 1925.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

For a longer time than I am willing to admit I have been keeping your letter with me, always intending to write; but frankly, I have had a sort of lethargy, and even now I find that writing by hand is a good deal of a tax. In fact, I kept your letter, intending to write by hand, and unwilling to dictate. Now it is among the first of the letters that I have wished to acknowledge, as it is one of the most appreciated letters I have ever received. I wish that I could adequately express all that your friendship has meant to me in the years, but I do not think I can ever do it, and certainly not now. My love to Emma and yourself.

Affectionately yours,

Will

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FEB 13 1923

SECRETARIES

January 30, 1923

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

It was good to get your letter of January 13th. That last little glimpse of you was just a tantalizer. I hope you will be down again soon and will come in at least for a few minutes.

As to our great lark in the spring, Emma has the week from April 22nd to April 29th free, and we will hold that tenaciously. April 20th is our thirtieth wedding anniversary and we will take that following week to celebrate it.

Emma and I spent last night with Ned and Lucy and Ned and I had a good walk down from 50th Street to 23rd this morning. I wish there were just a few more such true and loving men as he. He told me of your search for some younger man who could be worked into things, and Emma suggested the name of Mr. Leeper, who married Rob Corey's sister, and who, on account of her health, has just had to give up his missionary work in the American Board Mission in North China. Dr. Sailer thinks very highly of him as a man of ability and efficiency and says that he seemed to have charge of a great deal of practical business end of the American Board work in Tsin-tsin. I do not know very much at first hand of him, myself, although I have often met and talked with him, and I do not know how he would work in theologically, but I should think it would be worth your while to find out about him from the American Board people in Boston.

Thank you very much for your notes on the books. I read Watts' Life a year or two ago and with great interest and at the same time the Lives of Burn Jones and William Morris. Have you read the little book of Brosi's containing his religious diary. He was an Italian Lieutenant who was killed in the war. It is a very striking little book.

With much love to May,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC.

Will Moody
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East Northfield, Massachusetts

February 1, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

We will stick to April 22nd to 29th with the grimmest kind of tenacity and hang on like a bulldog. Nothing but a matter of life and death is to interfere. Now the question is, where shall we go? Is it to be the Alleghenies, or in what direction? Did you know that when I was away May turned in my faithful old car and we have now a sedan, that is, one of those cars that the top will not come down? Fires of protest are smoldering in the bosoms of all the family, but May's mind was fastened on the cold weather here at Northfield in the fall and spring. The joke is that nearly ever since we got the car the snow has been so deep we could not use it. But anyway, there is plenty of room, and so far as I am concerned, it is the company that makes the drive, rather than the car.

Thank you for what you tell me about Leeper. Your recommendation is so characteristic. You tell me how much Emma thinks of him, and Sailer thinks of him, and the American Board, but with all caution, which is so characteristic, while admitting that you have met him and talked with him, you know nothing about his theology, and will not commit yourself! What wouldn't I give for that due caution! But anyway, I thank you for telling me what other people think and safeguarding yourself so cautiously.

No, I have not read Borsi's religious diary. I must confess to a little prejudice against diaries. First, why should a man write a diary if he does not expect it to be published? I have always had a sneaking suspicion that these pietistic diaries were not very genuine. I could write a very wonderful diary, I think, myself, if I had time, just telling what noble aspirations and ecstatic experiences I could imagine myself having. I can see you, for instance writing voluminously of your subjective experiences and being canonized a hundred years hence. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have Robert Speer's contemplations quoted in all the pulpits of the country! There is a suggestion for you. Instead of spending your time reading books going in to New York, write voluminous works on your aspirations and confess your failure, with a little gossip.

Did I tell you I was reading a scandalous book called

Horace Walpole's Letters? You don't want to read too much at a time, but really it gives you a wonderful insight into the life in England a hundred years ago. If anyone gets pessimistic about present condition of things, let them try reading some of these works.

Is Burne Jones and William Morris worth reading? I have never read them. Here is another curious old book that I am looking into a little, not reading very much, for it is tedious-- Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy. The credulity of our forefathers was amusing, especially in the realm of medical science.

Thanking you again for all you write me about Mr. Leeper, and especially thanking Emma for her indorsement of him, believe me

Ever yours affectionately,

Will

MAR 20 1923

228
SECRETARIES

Dictated 3/13/23

March 14, 1923

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Maes.

My dear Will:

It was good to get your note of March 6th and I think often with happiness of the plan for our trip this spring.

Elliott has an open Buick car belonging to the Wells family which he has kept this winter in Ned Buckley's garage. He says it is in good shape and that we could take that on our trip, if you prefer it to the closed car now stored by the Moody family. What do you say? Shall we take our trip this year through Pennsylvania? I have been looking over the road maps and we could get in a fine five or six day trip, covering the mountains of eastern and central Pennsylvania.

I have to be in Pottstown on Sunday, April 22nd. I could be back in Englewood the next morning early, as there is now a midnight sleeper from Pottstown to New York, and we could start out at once; or, if you could not get down from Northfield until that evening, we could start the next morning. We ought to plan to get back to Englewood Friday night, I suppose, so as to be sure to get to Northfield for Sunday, the 29th.

I have never read the Walpole Letters. Your comments make them very inviting. I have just read the Walter Page Letters, however, and you will thoroughly enjoy them.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC.

W. R. Moody

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GEORGE S. PALMER

East Northfield, Massachusetts

April 2, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Rob:

You will think it very ungracious and careless that I have so long deferred writing to acknowledge your letter suggesting that we use Mr. Wells' car. When your letter came I was away from home. I then sent it down to May to get her judgment, and as I am often careless and forgetful I mail things to the house. What has become of this letter I do not know, for May declares she has never seen it.

I have been thinking the matter over carefully, and I should not hesitate a moment in accepting your offer a little later in the season. I am just questioning whether in April, with the uncertain weather, we would not be safer in a car that can be closed in entirely. If we should be subjected to a cold rain we might be glad to be sheltered completely. How do you feel about this? Of course if the weather is pleasant the windows can be lowered all around.

I wish you would tell me what you think about the best place to visit. Possibly we could meet you somewhere on the Monday and make an early start. I cannot tell you with what eager

expectancy I am looking forward to those few days. Do talk it over with Emma and tell us where you would like to go. I almost fear that we are having such a late spring that New England will be pretty raw and chilly. Of course I may be mistaken. I think the last time we discussed it the majority vote was in favor of the Alleghanies.

Are you going to be home on Sunday, the 22nd? If so, I might almost hint for an invitation for May and myself to spend Sunday with you, so that we could make a start from your home. If you are going to be away, however, why couldn't we have some objective that would meet your convenience? If you were in New York State we might all meet at Albany. Or tell me where you are going to be on the 22nd, then perhaps we can outline our trip.

Affectionately yours,

H. R. Moody, Jr.

MR. MOODY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will Moody

The Northfield Schools

(INCORPORATED)

MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1881

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED 1879

FILING DEPT.

APR 11 1923

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

March 26, 1923.

S

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York, N. Y.

Dear Rob:

I have been away from home for some days returning to find your letter of the fourteenth, and I am ashamed it has been waiting nearly two weeks.

I will have a talk with May in regard to the car. We can put all the windows down in our car and make it in a sense like an open one, but it is not like the old Buick when we could put the top down.

Frankly I am very much attracted to the mountains of Pennsylvania for I have never seen them. Do you know the roads? I will write you again soon.

Connie is just back and is very enthusiastic over her trip.

I have read a little of Walter Page's letters and they are most entertaining and instructive. We can talk them over on our trip.

Affectionately yours,

Will

W.M./EBL

APR 13 1923

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SECRETARIES

Dictated 4/6/23

April 9, 1923

Mr. W. R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

Your good letter of April 2nd and your loving note of sympathy have both been received. My older brother was a great character and his going takes a great interest out of life. He has been failing for some time, but we had no apprehension of so near an end until three or four weeks ago when he contracted a heavy cold, going home late from the banquet of his Yale class here in New York. The car was unheated and he complained of a chill on reaching home. The strain of the consequent bronchitis and perhaps pneumonia was too much for his already depleted strength. He slipped away without suffering, however, and I have just come back from laying his body away in the old home cemetery in Pennsylvania where five generations of our family lie buried, beginning with the founder of the old town.

Perhaps you are right about the closed car. It will have the advantage too of enabling the old ladies to shut off the fierce winds which have beat upon them on our previous expeditions.

The lateness of the spring is an added argument for our choosing Pennsylvania instead of northern New England. As I wrote, I have to be at the Pottstown and Perkiomen Schools on Sunday, April 22nd. I think the thing for you and ~~me~~^{May} to do is to come down and spend that Sunday in Englewood. Then you and May and Emma could start out Monday morning and I could meet you at some place on the road, or I could get back to New York by noon and we could then all start out together.

Or perhaps a still better arrangement would be for you and ~~me~~^{May} to come down to Englewood on Friday, April 20th. This is our 30th wedding anniversary day. Then we could all go over the next day by motor to Pottstown. They would be very glad to have us there and that would give us all the following week for a good trip through Pennsylvania and get back to Northfield on Saturday.

The Pennsylvania roads are fine and our trip could run around through the Blue Ridge by Wilkesbarre and down from Lock Haven and Bellefonte to Huntingdon and over the mountains to ^{the} Lincoln Highway and back here by way of Gettysburg and Harrisburg and Englewood.

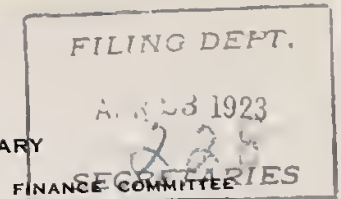
Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC.

Will. R. Moody
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(INCORPORATED)

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East Northfield, Massachusetts

April 17, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Rob:

I did not know what May had written to Emma, but in any event, it must not disconcert us. I am back now and pompously assuming the head of my own family. The edict has gone forth that in spite of everything May is coming and we are to go.

I think that if it meets with your convenience, and you think it will be acceptable to the friends at Pottstown, we will motor down with you next Saturday. I have got a dinner in town of my class on Friday night, but we could come out early Saturday morning, and make a start in good time to arrive at Pottstown, I should think, in time for dinner. I do not know the distance, but I assume it is not more than a hundred and twenty-five miles, and that you will be an infallible guide in New Jersey, although to speak with a frankness which is born of the intimacy of many years, I think you are absolutely no good in regard to New York especially back of Tarrytown.

I cannot tell you how I am looking forward to being with you. In Boston on Saturday I went into a grocery store and ordered

things to replenish our old hamper, so that if the weather permits we can lunch by the side of the road. The principal ingredients were cheese and pickled walnuts. I suppose that with the somewhat critical attitude of our wives in regard to our judgment in house-keeping it will be subject to some revision, to say nothing of criticism. Anyway, I am looking forward.

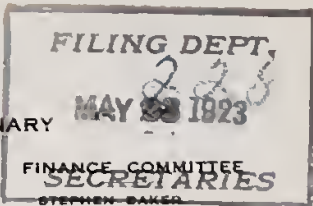
Affectionately yours,

Will

W. R. Moody

The Northfield Schools

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FOUNDED 1881

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
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Handwritten signature/initials in red ink.

East Northfield, Massachusetts

May 8, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Rob:

Your letter of May 1st came on Friday. I was away from the office most of Saturday, engaged in the very laudable but somewhat bone-aching effort of making a garden. When you get beyond fifty-three and bend over a garden by the hour it has a strange way of putting kinks in your spine. Sunday rested me up, however, and I am fit this morning.

So sorry to hear you had such a bad shaking up in Springfield a week ago. That is a miserable train, and I always avoid it if I possibly can. Of course now it is worse than ever, for on week-days it leaves at 6.30 instead of nine o'clock.

We have been living over again the trip, and all last week we were comparing the day with the corresponding day of the week previous. Now you say we must look forward to another trip in the fall, and I am not going to let you off easily on that. With all your programs and everything about you, can't you give me some tentative date? Don't you think those benighted sinners up at Bar Harbor ought to have your ministry this summer? It would be a wonderful trip to drive up the coast and then cross over through

the White Mountains and back that way. Or why not be really daring and go clear up to Quebec, thence to Montreal and down from there? Spend your evenings in studying up routes so that we will know exactly what to do. Here is something still more pretentious: Come down from Diamond Pond the last week in August and start with us due west to Syracuse or Buffalo, thence southerly down to Huntington County and back to Englewood. How's that for a dare?

Very affectionately yours,

Will

Dict. May 7th.

FILING DEPT.
MAY 28 1923
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SECRETARIES

Dictated 5/11/23

May 17, 1923

Mr. Will R. Moody,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Will:

It has been fine to get your notes with their enclosures. I am acquainted with the orator whose volunteered services you have earned. I envy you the light-heartedness with which you can reject such offers.

Thank you very much for your note about Margaret. She is on her way home now from California, reaching Chicago tomorrow. It will be good to have her back again. This trip and her journeyings with Miss Royden have taken her away from home most of the time since Christmas.

Your letter of May 8th holds out such dazzling prospects of joy riding that I begin to fear that I may contract the disease known as delusions of grandeur. That must be a very delightful disease, I sometimes think. I have met one or two men who have had it. They cured everything. There was nothing they could not do. They were the equals of Shakespeare and Browning and Gladstone and Dante. There was nothing they did not know. Alas! Alas! Whatever disease I have is exactly the opposite of this one!

I will ponder this matter of what portion of the United States we should investigate as minutely and satisfactorily as we have investigated certain other portions of it. This question I think we shall be able to settle easily. The more difficult one as to the time of the investigation is also receiving consideration and I will report on it as soon as any results have been attained.

Thank you very much for your suggestion about the Trustees' meeting on Saturday, June 9th. It comes right in the middle of our Annual Conference with our newly appointed missionaries, and I am not sure yet what I shall have on hand that day. If I find that I can get away, I shall certainly come up. I fear I could not motor up with Stephen on Friday, however. I should have to come on the Friday night train and go down to Mt. Holyoke Saturday afternoon.

With a great deal of love to May and the children,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC.

W. R. Moody

FILING DEPT.

JUN 7 1923

SECRETARIES

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GEORGE S. PALMER



East Northfield, Massachusetts

May 18, 1923.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Rob:

I am so glad that you agree with me in the importance of thoroughly investigating different sections of the country. I suppose we have both derived this from the Inter-Church World Movement. I feel that it is of the utmost importance that as a self-appointed commission we should at first hand investigate the social, economic, geological, zoological, and every other "logical" condition that prevails in different centers of the country, that shall enable us "to put over an extensive program." What all this means I do not know, but in your official position in the Federated Churches you will know, and will be able to arrange an itinerary that will be suitable.

Why not explore Quebec? They say the drive from Quebec to Montreal is perfectly wonderful. Then of course we must get down to Huntington, which we have so far neglected, and I should think the Shenendoah Valley would also need a little investigation. Who knows but that we might affiliate somebody with something, and eclipse in its issue all those great names that you mention-- Shakespeare, Browning, Gladstone and Dante. Eventually the wanderings of Dr.

and Mrs. Emma B. Speer, and May Whittle Moody and husband, may become notable events.

I am disappointed that there is so poor a prospect of your being with us for the trustees' meeting. If you can possibly make it give us a chance to welcome you.

Affectionately yours,

M. P. Moody, Jr.

MR. MOODY WAS OBLIGED TO LEAVE
BEFORE SIGNING THE ABOVE LETTER.
DICTATED BY HIM. -STENO.